

SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council

ENews Summer 2014

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Randall K. Fowler, Chairman
Dennis D. DeFrancesco, Vice -Chairman
Bill R. Smith, Member
Gene E. Hardee, Member
John H. Thorp, Member

COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The Council will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 204, Columbia, SC. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

OFFICE STAFF

Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator
Sherri Moorner, Program Assistant

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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BOARD OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Continuing Education Requirements for 2015 License

Thirty hours of continuing education activities will be required for license renewals in 2015 and thereafter. Of these hours, 29 must be soils -related topics, and 1 hour must be in professional ethics roles, responsibilities, and conduct of professional soil classifiers, or a review of the [SC Law and Regulations](#).

The soils-related topics must include courses or public service hours directly related to soil science, including professional meetings, short courses, workshops, seminars, etc. The clear purpose and objective of a legitimate continuing education hour is to maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to a licensed soil classifier.

Continuing education hours for 2015 renewals must be obtained between February 1, 2013, and January 31, 2015. Licensees are allowed to carry over 15 hours of continuing education courses from February 1, 2011, to January 31, 2013, if these hours were in excess of the 30 hours required during that period.

Classes offered

Credit will be allowed only for participation in continuing education activities where independent verification is provided. "Independent verification" means documentation of attendance by a sponsor or the sponsor's designee. **Please note that the Council does not pre-approve continuing education activities or courses.**

Approved Programs

1. Activities and field days organized or sponsored by SSSA, SSSSC or similar organizations acceptable to the Council qualify to fulfill the continuing education requirement.
2. The following types of activities are acceptable:
 - a. Attendance at technical presentations or workshops on soil classifying subjects which are provided by independent sponsors or held in conjunction with colleges, universities, conventions or seminars and are related to materials use and function;
 - b. Self - directed study may include:
 - i. Webinars on practice - related topics.
 - ii. Public service activities that draw upon the soil classifier's expertise.
 - iii. Articles or other study materials the soil classifier has not previously utilized for self - directed study.
 - iv. Hours spent in soil classifying self - directed study programs such as those organized or sponsored by SSSA, SSSSC, or similar organizations acceptable to the Council.
 - c. Teaching soil classifying courses or seminars:
 - i. A maximum of one (1) CE credit may be claimed per class hour spent teaching soil classifying courses or seminars.
 - ii. Licensees may not claim credit for teaching the same course or seminar more than once. Teaching credit does not apply to full-time faculty.
 - iii. Each semester hour of credit from a college or university shall be deemed to be fifteen (15) hours and each quarter hour of credit shall be deemed to be ten (10) hours. University and college courses offered in a degree program are permitted so long as the course is not taken to meet the education requirements for licensure as a professional soil classifier.

Reporting Methods

Licensees will certify they have met the continuing education requirement on the license renewal form. Documentation is only submitted if requested through a continuing education audit (instructions for submitting documentation will be sent with the audit letter).

Reporting Records Accepted for Audits

Certificates of completion, agendas, or sign in sheets that show the number of hours credited for the course are acceptable. Licensees are required to maintain these records for four years.

Disallowed activities

The Council has final authority with respect to approval of courses, credit, continuing education hour value of courses, and other value of content. The licensee will have 180 calendar days after the date of notification to substantiate the original claim or to earn other continuing education credit to fulfill the minimum requirement if the Board disallows a continuing education claim.

Failure to Comply With Continuing Education Audits will be considered a violation of the Soil Classifying Law and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Exemptions

- A new licensee is exempt for the first reporting period (not to exceed 2 years).
- A licensee serving on temporary active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding 120 days in a year. (Requests and documentation for this exemption must be submitted by January 1 of odd - numbered years).
- A licensee experiencing physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances as reviewed and approved by the Board. (Requests and documentation for this exemption must be submitted by January 1 of odd - numbered years).

Additional information on the continuing education requirement is available on the [Council's website](#). Please contact the Council at (803) 896-4408 or at sherri.moorer@llr.sc.gov if with questions regarding the continuing education requirement.

2015 License Renewals

License renewals for 2015-2017 will open in mid-November 2014. License renewal notices will be sent to actively licensed individuals when the online renewal system is opened for this renewal cycle. These notices will contain important information on accessing the online renewal system or submitting the renewal with a complete paper renewal form and a check. Please ensure the Council has a current mailing address and email address on file so you will receive these notices in a timely manner. **The Council cannot waive late penalty fees for any reason**, so be sure that you submit complete renewal information on time to avoid the fees associated with renewing after the January 31, 2015, deadline. Please contact the Council if you do not receive your renewal notice by early December.

Meet Council Member John Thorp



John Thorp is a new member of the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council. He has a bachelor of science in agronomy from Clemson University (cum laude) and more than 31 years of professional experience in geomorphology, soil delineation, land classification, and wetlands assessments in SC, NC, TX, VA, WVA, LA & AL. He possesses extensive experience performing soil surveys, silvicultural interpretations and detailed on-site investigations for sanitary wastewater dispersal.

Thorp also has broad environmental regulatory expertise at the local, state, and federal levels, including providing testimony to the US Senate Sub-committee on the Environment on behalf of the American Forest Products Association. He previously served as Chairman of the S.C. Soil Classifiers Advisory Council and was a member of the Research Advisory Committee for the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI). Thorp is married with two daughters.

We welcome Thorp to the Advisory Council.

Online Soil Roster Available

A roster of professional soil classifiers licensed in the State of South Carolina is available [online](#). This roster is provided free of charge and is updated regularly. Licensure can also be verified on the [“Licensee Lookup”](#) feature on the website.

Online Services

LLR offers licensees [online services](#). Services available on this site include entering a change of address and printing licensure cards. Licensees will need a username and password to access the system, which is provided on the renewal notice mailed to licensees or can be requested by clicking on “I do not know my UserID/Password” on the Council’s website.

State Holidays

The Council office will be closed in observance of the following State holidays:

- Monday, September 1, 2014, for Labor Day
- Tuesday, November 11, 2014, for Veteran's Day
- Thursday – Friday, November 27-28, 2014, for Thanksgiving Day.
- Wednesday – Friday, December 24-26, 2014, for Christmas Day.

Licensure Statistics as of July 8, 2014

Professional Soil Classifiers	48
Soil Classifiers-In-Training	0